

# FANTOM

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## DANIELE DAINELLI EMPTINESS UP CLOSE

The agricultural laboring class was the major force behind the Chinese revolution. The chief impetus for the creation of the People's Republic of China came from the countryside.

In time, our vision of China has changed from one of an essentially rural nation, which it continues to be, to one of a nation of densely populated chaotic and glittering metropolises.

As a matter of fact, most Chinese people continue to survive, although not without difficulty, thanks to agricultural work.

The opening up of new markets in the Eighties led China to compete with Japan for second place in the world economy. In the midst of the global crisis, China continues to record an annual growth rate that exceeds 10%. Now, as in the past, the Chinese countryside is plagued with poverty and backwardness. In the last thirty years, in the wake of the Chinese reform that moved employment opportunities from the countryside to urban areas, over two hundred million people have moved into cities. External migration is a much smaller phenomenon than internal migration. Dissatisfaction with their living conditions forces young people to leave the countryside in



an endeavor to improve their social status. Most end up in one of the thousands of factories that lie on the outskirts of large cities.

Abandonment. This is the sensation one has when travelling around the China countryside, deprived of its Middle Generation and now a nursery for children and a place of rest for the elderly. In order to tell its story I have chosen to take photographs of landscapes and the interiors of homes. The former are broad perspectives, with the aim of creating a perception of these places that is as close as possible to the actual experience. With the photographs of the interiors of homes I would like to give the viewer the sensation that they are touching the objects and feeling the substance of things. With this project I have tried to capture the complexity of these places starting with their emptiness.

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